

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 8, 1875, with transcript

Brantford, Ont., Can., Home, April 8th, 75. (Prof. A. G. Bell, Care of Mrs. Saunders, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

Your letters of March 22d, and April 3rd, reached us this Afternoon, and have made us feel very uneasy- fearing some serious ailment will result from such a continued strain upon your nervous system. We cannot help thinking you would have been wise to have withdrawn when you found you must come into collision with Mr. Gray, who seems to have previously published his scheme. Papa and I have just finished looking over the whole bundle of your letters, written from the commencement of your absence from home after you came to Canada, but in none of them is there any reference to your own , prior to 74- unless it is on the pencil sheet I enclose, being part of an undated letter, though I think it must have been 74, by the allusion to your study. I remember your speaking of a snug place where you privately stowed any telegraphic apparatus, in your room at the University, when you first joined it, but your experiments were secret. You were born on the third of March, 1847, and you arrived in Canada, from England, on August the first 1870. You never acknowledged receipt of the letter from England, in reply to your application 2 which we sent, accompanied by a letter from your Father. Now I think of it, I must be mistaken, as you did acknowledge letters received at Washington. We shall be truly thankful when this matter is all settled and your mind again at rest. We have not heard from Uncle James since I wrote in the beginning of March. A letter was received yesterday from Chester, who tells that his cousin George has obtained an excellent situation as Professor of Mathematics, somewhere near Windsor, worth 700 a year, and the duties very light, besides two months holiday. If I remember rightly, he will be required to work only five hours a day, and not on every day of the week. Well, he has been a hard working fellow in his time and fully deserves this result of his energy. Friends at the

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Town house all well. Difficulties anent the wood, are likely to be cleared up. We had a visit of two days, from Mrs. Moncrief, last week, she made many and kind enquiries for you. Uncle David and Aunt Ellen now here at the same time. I went up on Tuesday and spent a couple of days with Carrie. Her house looks very nice, though not yet fully furnished, and she seems very comfortable. She has applied for one of Miss Wye's girls, but as yet has no reply. The family are very kind to her, and so far, she gets on very well with her duties. George has a man who lives in the house and lights the fire. They breakfast at six o'clock and dine at 12 . After that Carrie seems to be at leisure for the rest of the day. I don't 3 know how it will be in the thick of the working season. We have had a serious flood of water down the river, which has carried away the new mailing bridge, or rather the greater part of it, and the gates of the Canal parties were employed all day on Sunday in damming up the water under the bridge. Let us hear soon. Fond love and cautions, from your Father and,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell,